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# AMERICA'S BIGGEST WAR PLANT



AWI-28

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# A BILLION-ACRE WAR

## In the open country ...

Outside every American town is the biggest war plant of all—the American farm.

Because the farm plant is divided into 6 million units, its size sometimes fools people. But imagine a factory reaching from Canada to Mexico and from the Rockies to the Appalachians. That's the size of our farm plant—a billion acres, nearly 10 times the farm land of Germany and Japan together.

It takes a lot of people to run a factory that big. Last year there were 30 million people on the land—farm workers and farm families. That's



about one person of every four in the United States. Yet, so great is the farm production job, that there were too few hands on many farms to do the work. And the ranks of farm workers are growing thinner.

The plant itself is none too big for its giant task. It must feed and clothe all our fighters and home-front workers. A share of the output helps keep our allies in there fighting. And as occupied lands are liberated, American food will give new strength to hunger-worn millions who will fight at our side.

## Producing TO ORDER ...



Like all war industries, agriculture has war objectives. They are the 1943 production goals set for every farm commodity. They are based on the food and fiber needs of our armed services, our civilian population, and our allies. They take into account dietary needs, shipping space, and the farmers' capacity to produce. They are a part of our global strategy.

The 1943 farm goals are not always all that is needed, but are the estimated limit of what can be produced. Total needs are weighed against total farm production resources. The balance that is struck is the farm goals.

It is not enough just to produce more of everything. There is need for much more of some things like meat, milk, fats, and oils. Moderate increases are needed of others, like eggs, corn for feed, and certain vegetables. To get the increases more urgently needed, production of some other commodities, like wheat and short-staple cotton, will be decreased on many farms to make room for the more important war crops.

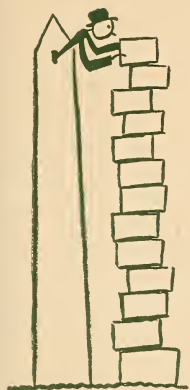
Each farm's share of the 1943 national production is scheduled on a farm plan worked out by the farmer with his locally elected farmer committeeman.

# FOOD FOR FIGHTERS, CIVILIANS, ALLIES, AND



# R PLANT!

## BIG-TIME production . . .



U.S. farmers today face the greatest demand for food the world has ever seen. Their 1943 production goals are an order of outstanding proportions.

They call for:

- Enough eggs to fill 308,000 stacks of egg cases, each as high as the Washington Monument.
- Enough cattle and calves for slaughter to make a double line around the world at the Equator.
- Enough milk to fill a strip of quart milk bottles 200 feet wide along all the Nation's coast lines.
- Enough hogs to fill a procession of livestock cars reaching from New York to San Francisco, back to New York, and back again to San Francisco.
- Enough peanuts to fill more than 14,000 railroad tank cars with peanut oil.
- Enough sheep and lambs for slaughter to keep a man counting one a second, 8 hours a night, for 27 months.
- And lots more.

## LIBERATED LANDS





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- Enough milk to fill a strip of quart milk bottles 200 feet wide along all the Nation's coast lines.
- Enough hogs to fill a procession of live-stock cars reaching from New York to San Francisco, back to New York, and back again to San Francisco.
- Enough peanuts to fill more than 14,000 railroad tank cars with peanut oil.
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**FOOD FOR FIGHTERS, CIVILIANS, ALLIES, AND LIBERATED LANDS**



## The farmer's problems . . .

As the need for food mounts, the farmer's handicaps increase. A million and a half workers left the farm last year. School children, women, and old folks turned out to help harvest. Despite all these willing volunteers could do, serious labor shortages developed in many areas. With more men going into the services and more civilians to war industry, the farm labor problem will be tougher than ever in 1943.



Steel goes for guns now, little for farm machines. About 40 percent as much farm machinery and equipment will be made this year as in 1940. Many kinds are already rationed. Farmers are working hard to keep old equipment in repair and to share machinery with their neighbors.

Some fertilizers are scarce. Supplies of fencing, welding rods to repair broken equipment, and construction materials are limited.

All these problems—and many others—are part of everyday farming in wartime. Feed the fighting men as they must be fed, feed civilians plenty but with some shifts in diets, and assist to our limit the other United Nations—this is the farmers' program. Farmers are straining every effort to these ends, aided by the Government and other agencies.

## The Government backs up the farmer . . .

**USDA War Boards** in every State, in every farm county, are GHQ's for farmers. War Boards bring together all resources of the Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges to aid farmers with production problems.

**Adjustment** features of the national farm program gear farm production to national goals for agricultural commodities.

**The Labor Program** provides for recruiting, training, transporting, and placing new workers in both full-time and peak-season jobs, and aids farmers to retain experienced workers.

**Price Stabilization** through the war and for as long as necessary after the war encourages farmers to expand production to the limit.

**Government Loans** supplement commercial bank resources to help farmers reach and maintain full production.

**Transportation** assistance includes development of rural truck-conservation programs and handling of farm-truck mileage allowance appeals.

**Conservation Programs** help farmers get bigger yields from their soil, protect the land against damage and destruction, and build fertility for greater productivity ahead.

**Crop Insurance** keeps farmers in business by protecting them against losses from unavoidable hazards, such as drought, flood, or freezes.

**Practical Advice** on sound production methods comes from county agents, State agricultural colleges, conservation technicians, and others.

